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Office of **Democratic Caucus Chair**

December 17, 2013

The Honorable Thomas Wheeler Federal Communications Commission

445 Twelfth Street S.W. Washington, D.C. 20554

> RE: Expanding the Economic and Innovation Opportunities of Spectrum through Incentive Auctions, GN Docket No. 12-268

Dear Chairman Wheeler:

Congratulations on becoming Chairman of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). I look forward to your leadership advancing policies that create jobs, expand broadband, and protect consumers.

I have recently learned that the FCC is considering rules for an upcoming auction of valuable public airwayes. It is my understanding that this auction will help accelerate the build-out of next-generation wireless services, and will make available \$7 billion to build a national wireless public safety network.

These are important benefits for my community. I encourage the Commission to adopt open and fair auction rules that will maximize the opportunity to realize these benefits.

Normally, I would not weigh in on a technical issue such as this one, but I have learned that T-Mobile has asked the FCC to adopt rules that would favor their company, among others, in bidding for this valuable spectrum.

I have some experience with T-Mobile in my community. T-Mobile operates a two large call centers and several retail stores in Tennessee. T-Mobile workers have reached out to political leaders to support their efforts to form a union so they will have a collective voice to improve their conditions at work. I fully support those efforts, but I have been disappointed by T-Mobile's response to these workers. T-Mobile in Tennessee and elsewhere has systematically opposed their workers' legal rights to join together in a union. The National Labor Relations Board has been forced to issue numerous complaints in the last two years.

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T-Mobile is a large, wealthy company. Its parent company, the German-headquartered Deutsche Telekom, which owns 74 percent of T-Mobile, is the 105th largest company in the world according to Fortune Magazine. It does not need special help to succeed. And given its disregard for workers' rights, the FCC should not take action that favors in any way a foreign or domestic company engaging in this kind of behavior.

Sincerely,

Mike Turner

State Representative

House Democratic Caucus Chairman

copy: Commissioner Jessica Rosenworcel

Commissioner Ajit Pai

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